

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for removing a halogen series gas, which comprises contacting a gas containing a halogen series gas ~~forming at least one kind selected from the group consisting of HF, HCl, HBr and HI by water~~ with a granule ~~containing from 60 to 99.9 mass% of a solid base and from 0.1 to 40 mass% of a carbonaceous material to the total mass amount of the granule~~ in the presence of water, wherein the granule comprises from 60 to 99.9 mass% of a solid base and from 0.1 to 40 mass% of a carbonaceous material to the total mass amount of the granule, the halogen series gas enters into a reaction with water to form at least one kind selected from the group consisting of HF, HCl, HBr and HI, and wherein the solid base is sodium hydrogencarbonate and/or potassium hydrogencarbonate, and the granule contains from 0.1 to 10 mass% of a porous material, wherein the porous material is silica gel and/or zeolite having an average pore radius of from 0.1 to 50 nm and a pore volume of from 0.05 to 4 cm³/g.

Claim 2 (Original): The method for removing a halogen series gas according to Claim 1, wherein the halogen series gas is at least one kind selected from the group consisting of Cl₂, Br₂ and I₂.

Claim 3 (Original): The method for removing a halogen series gas according to Claim 1, wherein the carbonaceous material is an activated carbon having an average pore radius of from 0.1 to 50 nm and a pore volume of from 0.05 to 4 cm³/g.

Claims 4-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Original): The method for removing a halogen series gas according to Claim 1, wherein the granule contains from 0.1 to 10 mass% of clay.

Claim 9 (Original): The method for removing a halogen series gas according to Claim 1, wherein the granule has a packed density of at least 0.7 g/cm^3 .

Claim 10 (Original): The method for removing a halogen series gas according to Claim 1, wherein the granule comprises granules of a particle diameter of from 1.0 mm to less than 1.5 mm having an average hardness of at least 0.5 N, or granules of a particle diameter of from 1.5 mm to less than 2.0 mm having an average hardness of at least 1 N, or granules of a particle diameter of at least 2.0 mm having an average hardness of at least 5 N.

Claim 11 (Original): The method for removing a halogen series gas according to Claim 1, wherein the granule contains granules having a particle diameter of at most 1.0 mm in an amount of at most 10 mass%.

Claim 12 (Original): A method for producing a semiconductor by removing a halogen series gas by the method for removing a halogen series gas as defined in Claim 1.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An agent for removing a halogen series gas, ~~characterized by discoloring a granule by reacting a halogen series gas forming at least one kind selected from the group consisting of HF, HCl, HBr and HI by water with an activated carbon in the granule in the form of a granule, and comprising from 60 to 99.9 mass% of a solid base and from 0.1 to 40 mass% of a carbonaceous material to the total mass amount of the granule, wherein the solid base is sodium hydrogencarbonate and/or potassium~~

hydrogencarbonate, and the granule contains from 0.1 to 10 mass% of a porous material, wherein the porous material is silica gel and/or zeolite having an average pore radius of from 0.1 to 50 nm and a pore volume of from 0.05 to 4 cm³/g.

Claim 14 (New): The method for removing a halogen series gas according to Claim 1, which additionally comprises stopping said method after the granule becomes discolored.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 5-7 therein; Claim 4-7 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been otherwise rearranged with no other change in claim scope. Claim 13 has been additionally amended to recite the agent as the granule, and thus to be consistent with Claim 1.

New Claim 14 has been added, as supported throughout the specification, especially the examples, and at paragraph [0095].

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-3 and 8-14 are now pending in the application.